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Kerygma Choir present an Evening of Celebration Praise

Musical Director Lorna Palmer and Kerygma (The Good News Choir) presented a great selection of hymns, carols

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and gospel songs at an *Evening of Celebration Praise* in Lisburn Cathedral on Saturday 17 November.

The recently formed Junior Choir joined with the senior choir as together they sang, 'We are all God's children' 'Jesus loves me', 'No turning back' and 'A Christmas blessing'. The soloists were Claire Warburton, Clover Watts and Hayley Howe (violin). The special guest was Lagan Valley MP Sir Jeffrey Donaldson.

The compere for the evening was the Revd Stephen Smyth, Rector of Kilmore and Inch, who also gave a short closing address.

The cross-community choir has been proclaiming the gospel through a variety of musical styles and genres since 2015. Musical Director, Lorna Palmer, formed the choir for the Year of Mission at Bishop Harold Miller's invitation and he remains their patron.

Be a peacemaker for 'Christmas Aid'

Chrriistian Aid Ireland writes - At Christmas time, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, given to bring hope, love, peace and justice to a broken world. We get the chance to spend time with our loved ones celebrating the Prince of Peace, but for millions of people this Christmas, peace seems like an impossible dream.

World War I was proclaimed to be the war to end all wars and yet as we marked the centenary of the Armistice, violence and conflict continues for so many communities

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across the globe, from South Sudan to Colombia. In 2016, more countries experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years. If current trends persist, by 2030 more than half of the world's poorest people will be living in countries affected by high levels of violence.

But while peace is broken every day, it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers. This Christmas, Christian Aid is calling for you to stand together with peacemakers around the world who are working tirelessly to bring hope to seemingly hopeless situations.

In South Sudan, Bishop Paride Taban is relentless in working for peace in his country where millions of citizens are suffering from hunger caused by years of civil war. Now in his eighties, he believes that peace is something you practice and every day he repeats 28 words for peace: 'If all put these 28 words into their hearts, and every day they repeat them, there will be no war in South Sudan, there will be permanent peace in South Sudan.'

Elsewhere in the shadow of violence and conflict, Diana Abbas sows the seeds of peace through counselling and therapy. She is the only psychologist at a children's centre run by Association Najdeh, Christian Aid's partner in Lebanon. Through psychotherapy, literacy classes and art therapy, the centre gives young Palestinian refugees the chance to overcome the violence they have witnessed. Thanks to Diana and others at the centre, more children can find peace.

Now more than ever, we need peace. Please support our work for peace this Christmas. Matthew 5:9 shows the

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blessings that lie within peacemaking – in this world it is up to us to do what we can in our daily lives to help frontline peacemakers like Diana and Bishop Paride.

You can be a peacemaker with your donation to Christmas Aid – an appeal to raise vital funds for Christian Aid's work. It costs just £10/€11.50 to pay for three young women to attend a community dialogue event that will help them learn about effective ways of reducing crime. £130/ €150 could pay for a psychologist to provide one week's worth of counselling and therapy to young refugees in Lebanon.

Will you stand with the peacemakers this Christmas?

You can make a donation by visiting www.caid.ie/christmas or by telephone:

Belfast: [028 9064 8133](tel:02890648133)

Dublin: [01 496 7040](tel:014967040)

Artists begin work on Vatican Christmas nativity – out of sand

The Vatican's nativity scene will be a little bit different this year. In a departure from the traditional Neapolitan or Maltese figures of recent years, the scene of Christ's birth will be entirely sculpted from sand.

Beginning Nov. 17, four artists are beginning their work in St. Peter's Square, crafting nearly 46,000 cubic feet of sand, equal to around 700 tons, into a grand "Sand Nativity."

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The creators, who have been sculpting sand nativities in the Italian town of Jesolo for years, say on their website that the goal is “to build the largest sand nativity in Christendom in the center of Rome in order to provide moments of authentic and joyful contemplation to all those who love Christmas.”

A partnership between the mayor of Jesolo and Patriarch Francesco Moraglia of Venice is what brought the famous sand sculptures to the Vatican for Christmas 2018.

The Jesolo sand, as it is called, was brought to the square from the Dolomites, a mountain range in northeastern Italy near Jesolo. The four sculptors who will transform the shapeless mounds into the traditional figures of Jesus’ birth hail from Holland, Russia, the Czech Republic, and the United States.

Phase one of construction will begin with a large pyramid of sand; spaces will then be dug into the sides and the sand compacted. A few days later, a protective structure will be built around the sand. The true sculpting phase will begin Nov. 21 and go until the first week of December.

In the final 48 hours, which will be Dec. 5-6, the final touches will be placed, before the big reveal Dec. 7, the same day as the annual lighting ceremony of the St. Peter’s Square Christmas tree.

The tradition to have a tree in St. Peter’s Square was begun by Pope St. John Paul II in 1982. This year’s tree comes from the Forest of Cansiglio in northern Italy, which is near the Dolomites.

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New First World War memorial plaque in Bantry church

Armistice Day 2018 was marked in Bantry with a special ecumenical service at St. Brendan's Church. The high point of the ceremony was the unveiling of a new First World War memorial plaque following the traditional two minutes of silence at 11am.

Until now there has been no one memorial in the area listing all those, from the parish, who died in the First World War. The new memorial rectifies this.

The Rector, Canon Paul Willoughby, spent four years researching the history and background of all those from his parish area who died in that conflict. In that research he discovered that 90 young men from Beara, Bantry, Durrus and Kilcrohane had died and that a further 31 were buried in the local cemeteries. The new memorial, which lists each name, was dedicated to peace and to the memory of the 121 from this parish of all denominations, faiths, traditions and religious backgrounds who died in the dreadful conflict and also those from other places who are buried in cemeteries in the parish.

Canon Paul Willoughby said afterwards that his motivation for this project was borne from his own family circumstance:

My great uncle Charles died on the 17th June 1916 at Ypres. He is buried in a grave at Essex Farm Cemetery, close to where he fell. He is remembered by our family, and formally in his own parish church at Tinahely in Wicklow and also, more recently, at the Wicklow War Memorial at Woodenbridge. My wife's great uncle Harry Green is also

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Canon Paul Willoughby with Angela Muckley, niece of Richard Barrett, pictured after the unveiling of the new First World War Memorial Plaque at St. Brendan's Church, Bantry

buried at Ypres, in New Ireland Cemetery. We visited Ypres in April 2018 and had the opportunity to visit those immaculately kept cemeteries and to attend the ceremony at the Menin Gate. It is so important that people have an opportunity to remember, a place to go, be it a grave or even a name inscribed on a solemn memorial.

Canon Willoughby explained that the words of the President, Michael D. Higgins at the Armistice Ceremony at Glasnevin resonated strongly with him, not least the reasons why we remember – ‘He spoke that we remembered today, churchnewsireland@gmail.org

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recalling the horror of war and recognising our common humanity.'

Canon Willoughby added:

The names on our new plaque are all local names, from local families. It is so sad to think that 107 young men from the parish went to war and died, four pairs of brothers among them and one aged fifteen. The names of some of the places where they died still send shudders through us – Gallipoli, the Somme, Ypres and Jutland. It is unimaginable to think that 31 of them are buried here in graveyards and cemeteries from Maulinward in Durrus to The Abbey in Bantry, from Kilmocomogue Burial Ground, Kealkil to Rossmackown Cemetery and to St. Finian's in Castletownbere and Bere Island. (where 26 are buried).

Among those who attended the ceremony at St. Brendan's Church were families whose names were inscribed on the new plaque. Frances Jennings of Rooska remembered her uncle Tommy (Baker) who died on the Western front in July 1917 and is buried in Belgium. Ecumenical guests of honour were Angela Muckley whose uncle Richard Barrett died aged 20 at the Western Front in September 1916. He has no grave, but like so many of his fallen comrades he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial at the Somme. Another guest of honour was Tommy Mullins, whose uncle Michael O'Neill survived the war and died very shortly after arriving home to Ballycomane, Durrus. Later that day a small group travelled onwards to Maulinward Cemetery for prayers at the grave of Michael O'Neill, where in October the Bishop, Dr Paul Colton, had also travelled to lay a wreath.

Contemporary landscaping revitalises Christ Church Cathedral

Dublin's [Christ Church Cathedral](#) has just completed a major reinvention of its forecourt area or 'garth', creating a stunning new landscape to set off the historic place of worship and heritage site. The scheme includes a new contemporary viewing platform overlooking the garth with its inlaid stone labyrinth, "inviting local and international pilgrims alike to partake in the sense of spiritual journey



which is at the heart of the cathedral". The project also sees the restoration of the former carriage gates into the garth, which will now form the principle entrance into the cathedral grounds, and spectacular floodlighting of the landmark.

Christ Church Cathedral is one of the city's oldest buildings, with the first building erected in 1030. The cathedral is the seat of the Diocese of Dublin and Glendalough and one of the country's principle places of worship. Through the centuries the building was rebuilt and adapted and its current appearance dates to an extensive (and

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controversial) restoration under the the architect George Street in 1871. The whiskey baron, Henry Roe, famously ploughed his fortune into the project, that also saw the creation of the adjoining Synod Hall (now Dublinia) from a remodelled St Michael's Church.

The Cathedral is at the centre of religious life in the city, but it is also one of the capital's most important heritage sites and a centre for culture and events. Each year it draws over 200,000 visitors and the numbers grow each year. The new forecourt is intended to better manage visitors as well as to showcase one of the city's most important buildings. The project was part funded by Failte Ireland under its Dublin Capital Investment Scheme. The design and execution was undertaken with Bernard Seymour Landscape Architects.

It makes for a stunning reinvention of Dublin's oldest cathedral. Read more about the Cathedral at www.christchurchcathedral.ie.

Porvoo Communion Prayer Diary now online

The Porvoo Declaration commits the Churches which have signed it 'to share a common life' and 'to pray for and with one another'. An important way of doing this is to pray through the year for the Porvoo Churches and their dioceses.

The Prayer Diary is a list of Porvoo Communion dioceses or Churches covering each Sunday of the year, mindful of the many calls upon compilers of intercessions, and the

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environmental and production costs of printing a more elaborate list.

Those using the calendar are invited to choose one day each week on which they will pray for the Porvoo Churches. It is hoped that individuals and parishes, cathedrals and religious orders will make use of the Calendar in their own cycle of prayer week by week.

In addition to the Churches which have approved the Porvoo Declaration, we continue to pray for Churches with observer status. Observers attend all the meetings held under the Agreement.

The calendar may be freely copied or emailed for wider circulation. Pdf at - <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/resources/554/porvoo-prayer-diary-2019>

Stealing lead from church roofs should be treated as a 'hate crime', says security expert

A security expert has recommended that the theft of lead from church roofs be considered a hate crime.

Nick Tolson, head of National Churchwatch, an independent organisation that provides advice on crime and security for places of worship, said when his church in Hampshire was attacked by arsonists in 2015 for a second time, just weeks after a Bible was left burning at the altar in a previous attack, it wasn't treated as religiously motivated.

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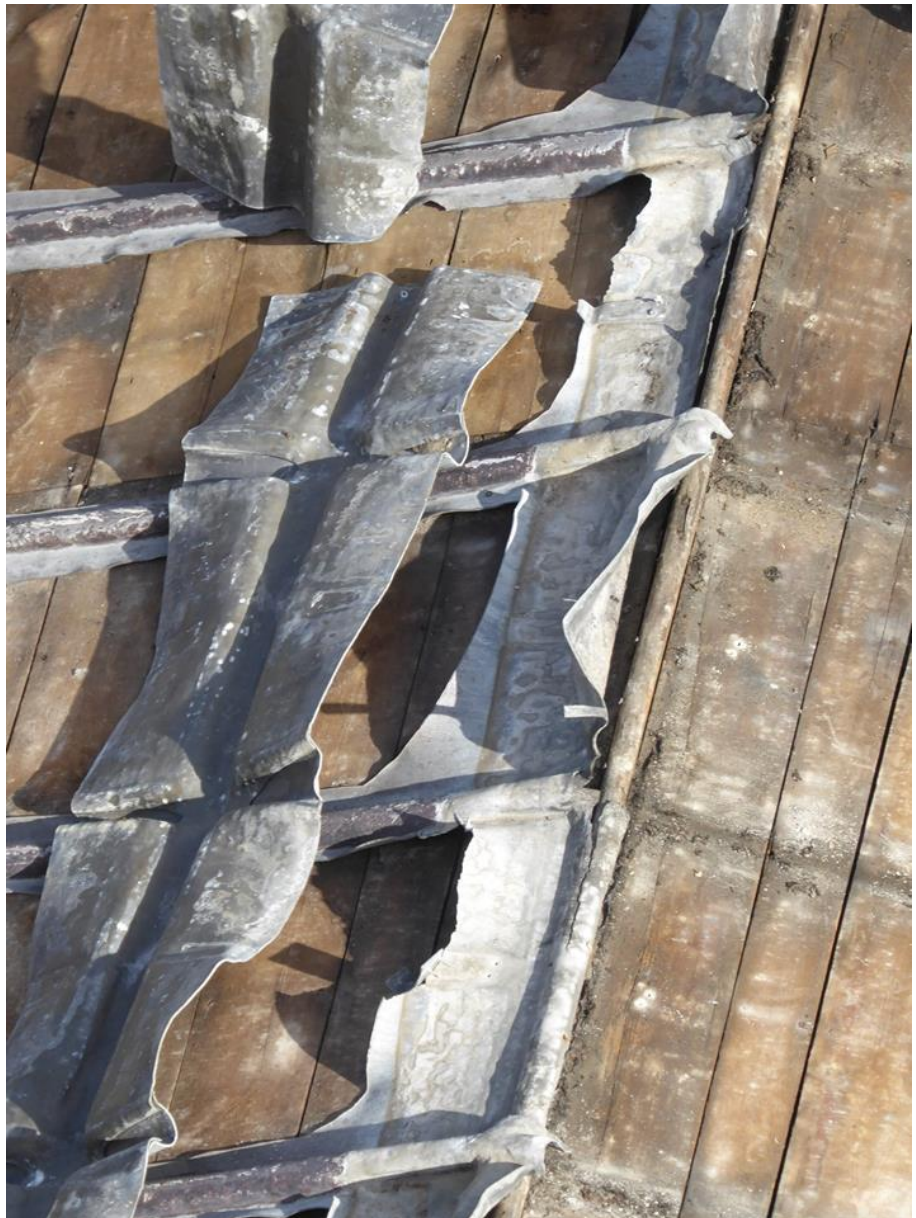
"If a crime happens in a mosque or a synagogue, it is assumed to be a hate crime unless proved otherwise, but if it happens in a church it is assumed to be a normal crime," Tolson told The Times.

"Lead theft is a big one. People may think someone is only attacking the church because it has lead, but

they know it is a church, that the church will have to pay for it and that the church is prevented from worshipping and can end up being locked up."

His comments follow figures released by Church insurance company Ecclesiastical that found churches made more than 9,000 claims per year for metal theft in the four years to 2012.

All Saint's Church in Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire, are [currently raising funds to cover a potential £400,000 bill](#)



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after the Grade-I listed building had approximately 20 tonnes of lead stolen over time.

It may only receive £15,000 from insurers for the replacement project.

The Crown Prosecution Service defines a hate crime as an action motivated by "hostility or prejudice".

It describes hostility as "ill-will, spite, contempt, prejudice, unfriendliness, antagonism, resentment [or] dislike".

News briefs

Lambeth consultation

For two days this week theologians from across the Anglican Communion gathered at Lambeth Palace to seek God's wisdom on the themes of the [#Lambeth2020](#) conference. The text for [#Lambeth2020](#) is 1 Peter. It's a book with so much to say to the Church, to the world – and to members of the [#AnglicanCommunion](#) seeking direction for the in the years ahead. Please pray that the Communion members might see and hear where God is calling them.

The Mageough is celebrating its 140th birthday

The 140th Anniversary of the opening of the Mageough will be celebrated next week, Wednesday the 28th November. At 7pm there will be a service in the Chapel at which the preacher will be the Dean of St. Patrick's, Dr William Morton. The organist will be Dr Kerry Houston. This will be followed by a reception in the Function Room. You are invited.

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Cathedral knitters needed

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, knitters were hard at work again last weekend! Would you like to knit a sheep for this year's Sheep Trail? All sheep need to be received at the cathedral by 29 November! The pattern is available on CCD's website:

<https://christchurchcathedral.ie/.../SheepTrailInstructionsWE...>

Coffee farewell to C of I Press Officer

The staff of Church House Belfast recently held a coffee morning for Dr Paul Harron on his departure from the role of Church of Ireland Press Officer for a new position as Senior Communications Manager at the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Dr Harron received a warm tribute from the Bishop of Clogher, the Rt Revd John McDowell, and in reply thanked his colleagues for their friendship and support over his 10 years in post.

New organist for leading New York choral church

Dr Jeremy Filsell has been named the next organist and director of music at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, succeeding Daniel Hyde.

Filsell currently combines an international recital and teaching career with being director of music at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, Washington DC; artist-in-residence at Washington National Cathedral; and professor of organ at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

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